

STRIKE!

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Workers' Autonomy For Social Revolution

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Thatcher's Britain leads the way into deepening depression.

What's Capitalism Done for You lately?

by: Tom Marick

Nothing strikes at the heart of modern industrial society like unemployment. One is tempted to say the dominant social relation of wage-labour and capital is a politically hostile one precisely because unemployment is the basis of industrial life. However little is understood about the causes of job insecurity. And mainstream ideologists have not addressed themselves to the social consequences of this contemporary plague.

It is not in the interests of the establishment to treat unemployment as other than a natural condition of life in society. Yet unemployment is a transitory phase firmly rooted in the habits of domination by humanity of humanity. This condition constitutes the chief characteristic of the global network today.

As the labour-capacity at society's disposal has been gathered together in the cities of the world its productivity has increased to the extent it has been combined more thoroughly. Unemployment accompanied this increased productivity and bred the familiar poverty of the immediate producers.

Society previously created or found surpluses. However, these only became valuable to the extent they could be extracted from the immediate producers of them. This requirement of domination was facilitated by the centralized regulation of the labourers made possible by cities. What is important, however, in this rise of the towns is the consolidation of a leisure class supported by domination.

Urbanization

Spurred by its appetites for profits this establishment tended to expand its dominion both against rival authorities and more primitive communities. But the spread of cities also decreased the need for direct domination of workers. As they were brought into closer cooperation by way of urbanization the capitalist class emerged. It lived by way of trading commodities for which they received a percentage of the value from the producers. These merchants really came into their

own as a market for wage labour developed atomizing labourers and constituting them legally as persons owning labour-power.

The labour market was both a practical extension of trade customs and a break with those routines in the sense that previously only those items haphazardly produced in surplus by artisans or land owners' dependents could become commodities. Now with labour-time for hire any item can become a commodity and any merchant can become an industrialist.

For industrialists the labour market cheapened the value of individual commodities because the labour needed to produce them could be specialized in the workshop and fired when not required. The new mobility of workers also reduced employer production costs.

However these reductions in the net value added to the products also adversely effected the establishment. Currently, for example, it depreciates stocks which are claims to future production's value and therefore rise and fall with the amount of labour required to produce a commodity. Likewise increased productivity restricts the credit market which also represents claims to the value of future production. The

value of credit charges therefore declines with production costs. Similarly currency is debauched as productivity rises. This currency depreciation accounts for higher interest rates signaling that the value of money is declining.

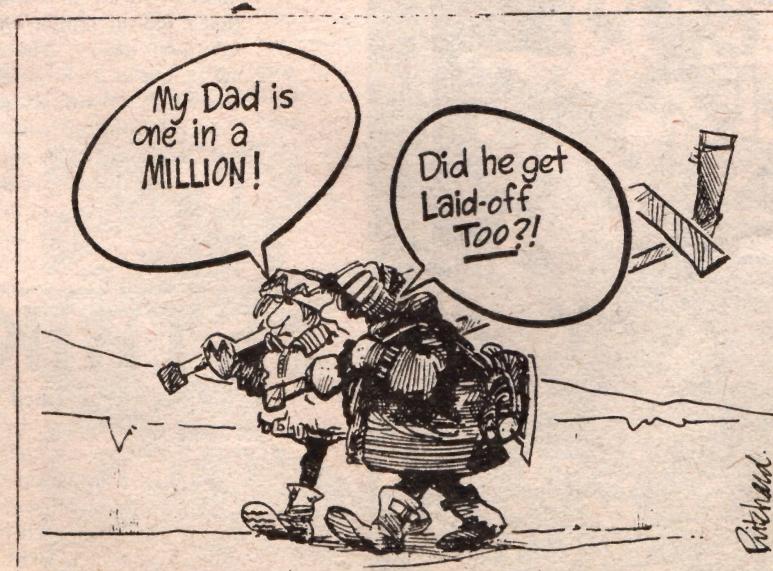
All these downward pressures on value add up to a tendency for the rate of profit to fall. This fall can be partially countered by increasing an individual firm's share of the market. This competition for increased markets is most favourable to those firms with lower production costs. At present production costs are best lowered by mechanization and automation which are the major means of increasing productivity.

Common Interest

Yet of late the captains of industry have chosen instead to shift the burden of their crisis onto the labour movement by wage cuts in order to increase the profits available to them. That's why strike activity to defend wage levels has increased over the last decade.

The capitalists resist automation because they see in it the end of their class. They identify this with the end of society in general. But if workers are to rid themselves of the age old scourge of unemployment

See **Unemployment** p. 3



Canada now "officially" has over 1,000,000 unemployed.

Silence in Complicity

by: John Bacher

While "mainstream" media manipulators and political pawns have been taking remarkably supportive actions against the Polish Government's use of martial law to attempt to crush the Solidarity Trade Union Movement, either praise or silence has greeted the Turkish armed forces' similar steps against their country's own dissident union, DISK, The Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions. Some 52 of its members are currently on trial for their lives before a military tribunal.

Like Solidarity, DISK emerged out of opposition to an "official" state-employer controlled trade union organization. Unlike its Polish counterpart, headed by communist party bureaucrats, the Confederation of Turkish Trade Unions, is tied to the AFL-CIO and the CIA. It presently is led by one Sadik Side, a member of the army backed cabinet and enjoys full legal rights except engaging in such forbidden activities as strikes or collective bargaining.

DISK has earlier antecedents than Solidarity, having been formed

power on September 12th, 1980. In October 1979 400 workers occupied The Kula Textile Factory in Izmir for eight hours until police broke down the doors, dispersing them with water hoses.

In mid-January 1980 workers in Izmir occupied a state-owned thread factory protesting the cancellation of their contracts. The occupation continued for a month, receiving support from 35,000 workers from another union. Workers cut electricity and water supplies, blocked roads, stopped transport in several districts. The occupation ended after some 1,500 workers were arrested after thousands of troops stormed the plant in tanks and armoured cars. In sympathy with victims of military repression some 2,000 teachers boycotted classes; resulting in their suspension, the banning of their union and the closing of five schools.

Again akin to the Polish generals directing the recent spate of repression in Poland, the officers who instituted a military dictatorship in



in 1967. It quickly became as Berch Berberoglu noted in the March 1981 issue of the scholarly journal *Race and Class*, "a rallying-point for class-conscious workers and trade unionists throughout Turkey." As a result of its militant strike action military government was similarly imposed in 1971. This led to a rapid increase in the rate of exploitation, with profits extracted from the backs of workers jumping 18 per cent from 1970 to 1973. With the ending of martial law DISK led a resurgence of working class protests. In May 1977 40,000 metal workers began a strike that would be victorious eight months later. Links were established with the Kurdish nationalist movement despite government efforts to turn its opponents against each other. In response to such challenges the fascist CIA-trained death squads of The Nationalist Action Party killed 2,500 persons. In response, in March 1978, more than two million people took part in a two hour general strike called by DISK to protest fascist terror, which was followed by a march of more than half a million persons in Istanbul on May Day.

Direct Action

Despite anti-union violence worker militancy intensified in 1979, climaxing with the military seizure of

Turkey are prime beneficiaries of the economic status quo. As the September 19, 1980 issue of the liberal British publication the *New Statesman* pointed out, the Armed Forces Mutual Funds, (financed by a ten per cent levy from the 80,000 member officer corps) is the third largest conglomerate in the country. It is undertaking joint ventures with foreign firms like Goodyear and International Harvester to return fat dividends to its "shareholders".

Like their Polish counterparts Turkish generals have shared the responsibility for their country's plunge into massive indebtedness to western bankers. In Turkey it reached a level of \$17.5 billion in 1980, partly to fund imports of military equipment and the insatiable appetite of state-run defence industries.

However the extent of repression in Turkey might make even a Polish general wince. For while the arrest estimates are in the 40-70,000 range for both countries, Turkey has conducted ten executions under martial law. Also, Amnesty International has reported that 22 persons have died in custody since the takeover. Despite government claims repeated in a December 31, 1981 *Toronto Globe & Mail* article that torture

See **NATO** p. 8

LETTERS TO STRIKE!



Poland and Internationalism

I'd like to briefly note that Lazarus Jones' article on Solidarity's convention was interesting and hit upon some very good points. However one must delineate between "honest" intellectual supporters of Solidarity and the specialists and/or technical experts who were brought in by the then developing bureaucracy. The question is not one of intellectualism vs. anti-intellectualism but, rather, the organic synthesis of revolutionary practice and theoretical development. Let's not forget that many of the opponents for the National Chair of Solidarity were also supported by the intellectual community.

As much as the polish workers have inspired many of us we must be critical as well, particularly in attempting to relate the Polish experience to our own workplace/social struggles. And our criticisms should not only be directed at Solidarity's bureaucracy.

I believe that it's important to recognize the near impossibility to create what would amount to an "island" of self-management in the Leninist sea, that is Eastern Europe. A revolutionary society can not be implemented from above, nor can it exist by itself. Naturally the key is a generalized social revolution not only in Eastern Europe but in the West as well. To ignore the totality of the situation is to be somewhat naive and shortsighted. A quick look at history will show that an isolated workers revolution will be crushed not only by emerging authoritarian forces, but also under the weight of western capital, ie: the International Monetary Fund.

Mike Harris

Misdirected Anger

Dear Strikers:

We were surprised to see that you printed our decidedly nasty letter in your last issue in which we suggested things would be better off without your publication. Although there are substantial areas of disagreement on every imaginable subject between your paper and ours we do share the final goal of a stateless society and in calmer moments do not wish for your demise.

Our letter was written hastily after seeing your issue which contained the attack on Carl Harp just as we had received the news of his death at the hands of the state. Our anger and sadness unfortunately focused on you.

Good luck with your new monthly format.

THE FIFTH ESTATE STAFF

Very Impressed

Dear Comrades,

I picked up a copy of STRIKE! Vol. 1 No. 12 at the Brixton Anarchist Centre in London and was very impressed.

Whilst not fully agreeing with all your conclusions I thought your article on Poland was very good and much above the usual 'libertarian' and 'leftist' superficial adulation of the Solidarity union. Also the article on the I.W.W. was unusual in not maintaining the expected anarchist reserve in criticising the current I.W.W. in respect for the memory of the old I.W.W.

The coverage of workplace struggles was much better than most magazines with your political outlook, and for those of us outside North America the news content was very useful. What more can I say?!

Fraternally,

Mike

Manchester, England

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For Starters

Here we are with the second issue of the monthly STRIKE! The reaction to the new format so far has been quite favourable. So has the response to making STRIKE! more of a 'movement' paper. As pleased as we are over this it is still our intention to have STRIKE! function as a publication committed to the eventual realization of a structured, class-based libertarian organization.

Nonetheless, encouragement from libertarians of all persuasions gives us added reason to continue publishing STRIKE! But praise does not pay our ever increasing bills. Foremost among these rising expenses are those recently imposed by the Post Office. In our estimation the new postal rates add nearly \$100.00 to the cost of each issue. Adding salt to the wounds is the Post Office's frustration of our attempts to get a Second Class Mailing Permit.

Since individual mailings require double the previous postage necessary we find ourselves forced to re-assess our subscription rates. Any changes will be considerably more modest than those of the Post Office. But they will be in addition to our less flexible subscription renewal policy. Henceforth persons whose subscriptions have expired will get two additional issues before being cut off. Ample advance notice will also be given. It is in the interest of the newspaper's survival that this inconvenience be avoided so please renew those subscriptions promptly.

Both subscribers and persons receiving bulk mailings of STRIKE! received with the last issue our first direct fundraising appeal. We hope it will impress upon people how precarious the future of STRIKE! is. Making the newspaper self-sustaining is not a pipe dream. If only 50 people were to contribute just \$15.00 per month STRIKE! could continue for years!

Our black on red STRIKE! buttons are en route to us through our highly reputed postal service and should be available any time now. They're \$1.00 each. The money goes to the newspaper's survival. Bulk orders will be sent on consignment but we prefer pre-payment if possible.



Starting next issue the addresses for the STRIKE! network will be listed. Local distributors are welcome to take part and shall be involved in major decisions affecting STRIKE! A number of groups and one individual have expressed their desire to be listed. We urge all other interested persons to contact us as soon as possible.

Finally, STRIKE! received a provocative reply to the article 'A Challenge to the Prison Movement' which appeared in Vol. 1 No. 11.

We were asked to re-print excerpts but did not give its scathing accusations against the anonymous author of the controversial article. Neither was it our wish to devote any space to a critique also supporting avowedly Marxist-Leninist urban guerrillas. However if some of our readers wish to see this document we invite them to write:

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ISSN 0712-1539

A Feminist Perspective

Letter to the Editors of Strike (Re: "Reds/Hollywood goes to the revolution")

Your reviewer Lazarus Jones seems to have overlooked the fact that the movie "Reds" is called Reds, plural, not Red, singular. The embarrassing portrayal of Louise Bryant by Diane Keaton (as someone said at intermission, "John Reed and Annie Hall go to Moscow") no doubt contributes to the dismissal of Bryant as a serious character in the film, but surely we must acknowledge that Warren Beatty intended Bryant to be more than just a sexual appendage of Reed. As the program *Tribute* somewhat optimistically announced, "Bryant pursued goals of her own — recognition as a writer and freedom as a woman."

Lazarus' review betrays one of two common reactions to Louise Bryant a-la-Reds. Inordinate praise for Beatty's attempt to break the female silver-screen stereotype, or, as in Lazarus' case, an almost total disregard for the fact that Bryant was one of two central figures in the movie. It is true that romantic schmaltz tends to dominate the film, undoubtedly for strategic appeal-to-a-popular-audience motives, but why write-off the female character as soon as "Gone With The Wind" tendencies get out of hand? Reed is as much a part of the lilies and Christmas tree scenes as Bryant, yet his participation in the romance is seen in terms of an over-all failure of the film rather than as a trivializing of his character.

Intelligent discussion of Beatty's treatment of Bryant has been overlooked because a female character cannot yet be shown on screen in a relationship with a man and still be considered a serious component in the film. In Reds Bryant is more than, as Lazarus puts it, Reed's "domestic misadventures". Despite an all too prevalent reluctance to criticize a film considered "decidedly subversive" in the context of "Reaganism", clear-headed discussion of the presentation of a character such as Bryant is essential to the ongoing development of feminist cultural criticism. This is particularly so in the light of Hollywood's recent belated attempts to introduce women rather than sex symbols onto the screen. We need to be as certain about where a film succeeds as where it fails, and both success and failure in this context can be seen in Reds.

Encouraging moments in the movie included the opening exhibition scene where Bryan is shown as social liberator despite the mortification of her staid husband. The first studio scene where Bryan puts her career before romance and doesn't end up in bed. Bryan's decision to leave her husband and go to New York by herself in the days when 3400-odd miles couldn't be travelled by plane and women never journeyed alone. The suggestion that Bryan saw through the bullshit of intellectual cafe life and, later, the super-star politico scene. The acknowledgement that women scream and punch (I'm praising faith to reality here, not the message) and don't necessarily end a disagreement happily in bed. The congressional investigation scene where, no matter how fuzzy her politics, Bryan is portrayed as emotionally strong when under attack. The Bryant criticism of Reed when he strong-arms his comrade with the "I'm a more dedicated revolutionary than you" line. And, finally, the scenes in which Bryan further proves her strength by refusing to allow O'Neill to 'protect' her from the ordeal of the secret journey to Russia, a journey which she successfully completes.

Notwithstanding these positive aspects, what stunk in the movie included the not-so-subtle suggestion that despite the film's criticism of Bryant's artistic dabbling, there was, after all, something endearing and maybe even meaningful about it. The whole O'Neill affair in which it was shown that women are vain and fickle creatures but that the best of them can overcome this drawback and stick by the 'good guy' in the end. The conclusion that free love is a destructive game which serious lovers reject in favour of monogamy and ultimately marriage (or perhaps marriage and ultimately monogamy). The break-up scene in which Bryan proves that women don't really mean what they say and are at heart jealous and possessive. The revolution scenes in which Bryan's sexual re-union with Reed informs us that no woman can resist a hero, and most annoying of all, the degrading kitchen scene in which any political pretensions the film may have sink into cheap slap-stick for the sake of a laugh.

The most positive feminist aspect of Reds is the attempt, however unsuccessful, to develop a unique female personality. Ironically enough, the failure of the film lies not in its slips into stereotypes and cliches, but in its inability to take itself seriously. The movie leaves Bryant stranded and alone in Moscow and the director feels it unnecessary to give us a postscript. It isn't that Beatty presumes Bryant has failed to arouse our interest, rather it is that as director he has not fully grasped that a unique female character must be able to stand alone on her own merits. The conclusion of the Reed/Bryant story according to Reds betrays Beatty's patriarchal assumption that women as individuals are ultimately important only in-terms of their relationship with men. Bryant is interesting because she was Reed's wife. It stands to reason that a man as great as Reed would be involved with a woman as remarkable as Bryant.

R.B.,
Toronto

STRIKE! Notes:

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Back issues of STRIKE! and its predecessor the North American Anarchist are available at our regular price per copy.

Under the Rule of Capital A Refusal of Knowledge

by: Kim Il Sung Jr.

For those who want more out of life than a hand-mechanized manure farm in the middle of East Bumfuck Territory, the notions of microphilia seem perverse indeed. Microphilia is the advocacy of smallness, justified as

fortune exploiting this theory. Publications such as the Fifth Estate find it equally useful. They both agree that the intrinsic formal properties of a device (considered of course *a priori*) dictate the universal use and consequent social result of that device.

CLASSIC QUOTATIONS:

"There is no such thing as a labor-saving device."

The Fifth Estate

a natural consequence of and appropriate response to the smallness of human beings in comparison with the rest of the world or universe. In the microphilic belief-system the accent is not only on the relative smallness of human beings but, most importantly, on our presumed inherent, "natural" and insurmountable limitations.

While the Catholic view of humanity argues from similar premises, microphilic beliefs need not be explicitly mystical or theistic. Whereas the megaphile would develop his argument around a blind confidence in the panacea of growth for its own sake, the microphilic will insist on the incompatibility of growth itself with his or her notion of "the good life." Whereas the megaphile attempts to rationalize his insistence on growth with the facile equation "more growth automatically means freedom," the microphilic defends smallness with an eye to the inexorable perpetuation of necessity, scarcity, and by implication, the limitation of freedom. Megaphilia and microphilia are opposite sides of the same coin. Both are quantifications of the social experience according to extreme, rigid, simplistic opinions revolving around the absurdly false choices of growth vs. no-growth, large-scale vs. small-scale, anti-technology vs pro-technology.

The opponents of "technology" (never defined and invariably confused with "technique") commit two fundamental theoretical blunders: 1) reification, the reversal of subject and object; 2) formal abstraction, the domination of form over content—both of which are essential premises of capitalist ideology.

Abscribing authoritarian consciousness to inanimate objects hardly needs refutation. Yet constantly one sees this nonsense not only passed off as rational, but presented as inspired wisdom. The argument against "technology" goes something like this. Because high-technology instruments are employed in the process of class domination, they are therefore responsible for that domination. The same hammer that built houses and wagons, smashed kneecaps during the Spanish Inquisition. The hammer is therefore responsible for that nature of social domination. The argument is just that simplistic. It carries the underlying assumption that "technology" gives rise to social relationships. Concurrent with this point of view are the slogans, "Coke adds life," and "Chevys make good things happen." Such is the nature of reification.

As Guy Debord wrote concerning the nature of the spectacle, "It is a vision of the world which has become objectified." Those who define all technology in terms of capitalist technology show themselves incapable of any but spectacular thinking. The spectacle says "our way is the only way—what appears is all there is," and the opponents of "technology" appear to agree whole-heartedly. It shows how thoroughly they have imbibed the ahistoricism of the spectacle.

The separation of form and content is an inherently rationalist-empiricist notion. It is the same premise which extracts exchange-value from use-value. Form is said to dictate content—and under capitalism, so it does. Marshall McLuhan made his

red ends of craftsmanship." For those like Lewis Mumford who describe a large-scale technics as "authoritarian," and a small scale as "democratic", the following questions are offered. Was Egyptian hydraulic society democratic or au-

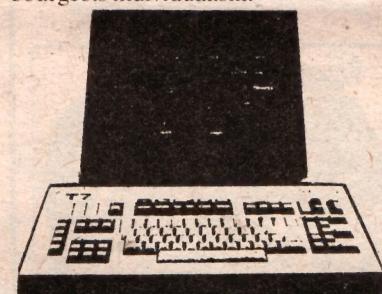
thoritarian? Is hand-cutting stone a simple technology? Does electricity transmit conformist ideas? Which is more democratic, China under the Ming Dynasty, or France in 1848? Is certain knowledge inherently dangerous?



"Now remember, if you pick up a rock, that's technology.
The next step is computer surveillance."

the history of social development—a God-given characteristic. McLuhanism (formalism) is a perennial pop-philosophy designed specifically to obscure the social origins of whatever comes into question.

In the "back to the primitivism" approach one can see the linear result of the hippy movement of the late 60s. Not only are the arguments ahistorical and self-serving, but they bear a disheartening resemblance to the kind of John Sinclair—"fuck everything—rock 'n' roll revolution" most of us had hoped was long forgotten. It is the kind of Abbott and Costello "theoretical work" appealing to uncritical minds looking for simplistic solutions. It is this position of anti-knowledge which has led several writers to categorize "anarchism" (too often rightly so) as the last phase of bourgeois individualism.



At a time when the forces of capital are re-grouping resources, and ruling class policies require austerity in all things on the part of the working class, the philosophies of "small is beautiful" and "back to primitivism" fit neatly into the prevailing spectacle.

Such notions are hardly new. In describing his Nazi Utopia, Adolf Hitler envisioned "communities of individual craftsmen working together for the glory of German folkspirit." He railed against large-scale industry which he claimed "subverted the sac-

red ends of craftsmanship." For those like Lewis Mumford who describe a large-scale technics as "authoritarian," and a small scale as "democratic", the following questions are offered. Was Egyptian hydraulic society democratic or au-

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Strikes Erupt

by: Bruce Allen

Romania continues to be a focal point of discontent in Eastern Europe. Violent strikes combined with other forms of unrest reached another high point this past autumn.

Trouble was principally touched off by the introduction of bread rationing. Once again the militant coal miners of the Jiu Valley region went into action. Strikes erupted there in October leading to yet another direct confrontation between these workers and Romanian President Nicolai Ceasescu.

As they had done in 1977 (see STRIKE! Vol. I #11, p. 13) the miners forced Ceasescu to appear at the scene of a strike action by incarcerating a local party official. The time before Ceasescu had to engage an assembly of miners in a five hour long, Edward Gierek-style polemic during which they continually taunted him. This time Ceasescu's presence was greeted by a barrage of stones forcing him to flee by helicopter.

Elsewhere, rioting reportedly occurred in the southern city of Giurgiu. Supposedly, the local deputy mayor was killed in the unrest.

Romanian workers are clearly more fed up with their situation than ever. But they still seem incapable of anything more than a growing number of spontaneous outbursts of

rage. What the workers lack is even a semblance of organization mainly because earlier attempts to form autonomous unions were smashed. Given the intense repression prevailing in Romania this obstacle will be very difficult to overcome.

At the same time there is the worsening economic crisis. Next to Poland, Romania owes the most money of all the East European regimes, six billion dollars, to Western banks. As in Poland too there is a quicksand effect in which government officials struggle to meet payments when they come due and often press for delays.

Up until now Ceasescu has played musical chairs with his cabinet in response. But this tactic of serving up individual bureaucrats as scapegoats for popular frustration is wearing thin. So must be the regime's reliance upon nationalism and his personality cult.

In view of all this, Romania's bureaucratic ruling class as a whole must be relieved by the temporary suppression of the Polish workers' movement. They know that had the iron fist of martial law not come down there Romania was a susceptible candidate for the contagion of intense class warfare. Even so there can be no doubt that more trouble lies ahead for the regime of Nicolai Ceasescu.

LALA Mobilizes

by Mike Harris & Brian Amesly

Libertarian Aid for Latin America (L.A.L.A.) is a project which began this past July during an anarcho-syndicalist conference in New York City. The aims and purposes of L.A.L.A. are to provide both material aid and support for our underground and imprisoned comrades in Latin America. L.A.L.A. intends to do this by fund raising and publishing an informational bulletin concerning all activities and events affecting them. This will complement similar work already underway in Europe.

In order to do this type of solidarity work the development of a broad network is needed. L.A.L.A. wishes to encourage all organiza-

tions/persons who read STRIKE! to help out. What is needed are contacts and sources of information in both various Latin American countries and the exile communities elsewhere. The nature of the work involved and the circumstances under which libertarians must operate in Latin America make maintaining security an important consideration.

The principle upon which L.A.L.A. is founded is international libertarian and proletarian solidarity. STRIKE! encourages all interested persons to contact: Libertarian Aid for Latin America, c/o Libertarian Workers' Groups, P.O. Box 692, Old Chelsea Station, New York, N.Y. 10113, U.S.A.

same interest which has made possible protection for the unemployed to prevent their being used for reactionary ends. This protection has included early retirement projects, overtime restrictions, longer vacations, unemployment insurance plans and shorter work days.

But it is wrong to believe that this is the remedy of the workers' movement for unemployment.

Rather our hard won understanding is that no solution to unemployment exists outside the concentration of capital, automation of production, the elimination of surplus value and the establishment it supports which will not pursue production on the basis of its profitability.



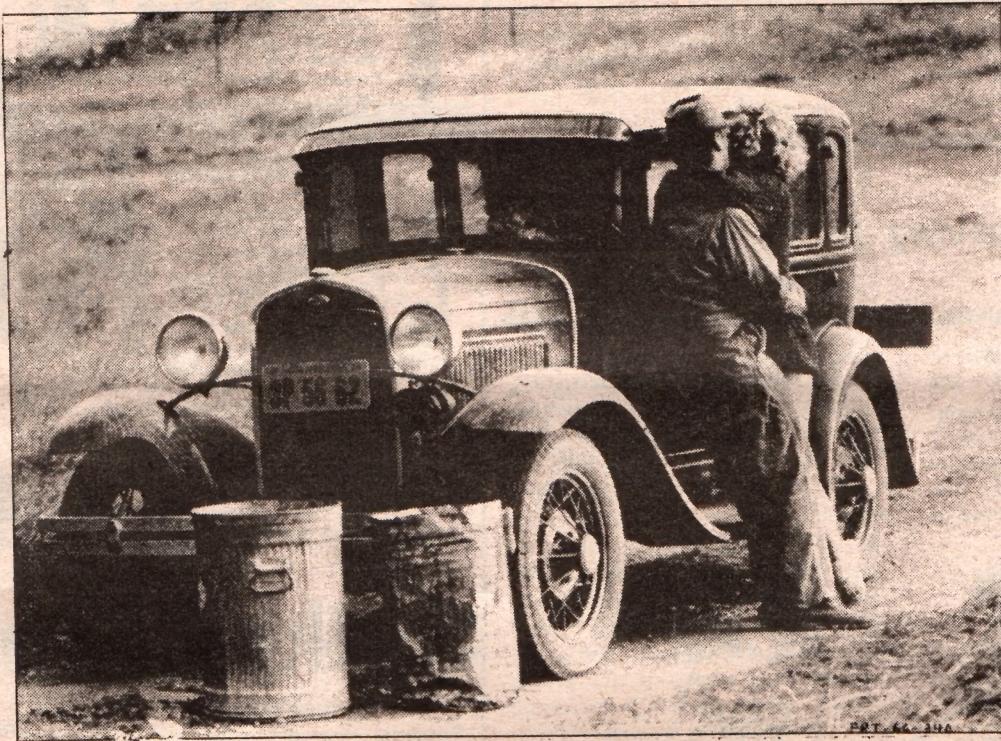
Unemployment

continued from p. 1

they will encourage automation by way of defending their real wages.

While it is true that accompanying unemployment has throughout history divided workers as they compete for jobs the maintenance of their wages has been the common interest which united them. It is this

Mixed-Media



Return of Film Noir

The fascination of the film noir has been rediscovered. With films like *Prince of the City*, *Body Heat* and the remake *Postman Always Rings Twice* now in the theatres, there must be something about these dark tales which captures the current mood.

The films noirs of the forties were intriguing because of their cynical tone and gloomy atmosphere, their convoluted plots, and also because the characters were forced to make moral choices in a morally ambiguous world. Particularly in the best remembered detective films of that time (*The Maltese Falcon* and *The Big Sleep*, for example) truth and virtue are not clear until the final frames of the film. Even then, the accepted truth — the story told to the newspapers and the cops — is constructed from pieces of the real truth, with enough fiction to patch the holes in between (holes used by the central character to slip out without indictment). It is morality without formal morals or scruples, the search for a just solution by a detective who has himself been implicated in the crime and guilt. At best, those who escape are those with the least guilt, and those who, it is arranged, will 'take the fall', are despicable, even if not actually responsible for the crime they are pinned with. The central character plunges into this morass with a variety of motives: personal gain, opportunism, sexual passion, but also a sense of justice.

These films were made during black times, with economic depression and war as the backdrop of daily life. The 'moral' person was forced to enter this dark labyrinth of murder and betrayal in the hopes of reaching some brighter justice at the other end. There was no way to stand back or rise above it. Those who loved international comradery were forced into the cross fire between nations, those who loved sharing and generosity were forced to look out for their own immediate interests.

The virtue of the film noir was (and is) the assertion that even in dark times like those one could still make choices. One could seek the most justice, the least compromise.

Just as the decay of the workers' movement from World War I to the mid-thirties set the stage for the individual approach manifest in the

film noir, so the collapse of our generation's moral and political certainty after the sixties and early seventies laid the grounds for a return to the film noir. Economic insecurity, the threat of war, and the failure of collective solutions, are once again the setting for daily life. While some of these new films noirs are merely a capitulation (and back-handed tribute) to cynicism, opportunism, greed and violence, some, like *Prince of the City* present the torturous search for clarity in a troubled world.

Prince of the City may be at the fringe of the film noir in plot, but thematically it cuts to the center of the genre. Danny Ciello, the central character of the film, is a cop in New York City's Special Investigating Unit (SIU), narcotics section. Ciello and his partners are involved in the usual police scams: taking money and heroin confiscated in drug busts, extorting money from mobsters in exchange for their release, keeping junkie informants supplied with heroin. Danny's family ties to the mafia make him particularly valuable in arranging deals.

Danny is approached by federal prosecutors from the special Chase Commission investigating police corruption. "You guys go for cops cause cops are easy," Danny screams, "What about the D.A.'s and judges?" The system is corrupt he argues, and "You guys run the whole thing." But Danny has also become corrupt, as his brother and father tell him. His wife sees it differently, describing a world where right and wrong have been dissolved in universal corruption: "I know you feel guilty. But others are more guilty than you. Everybody's guilty."

Still, Danny longs for the clean feeling he had when he first started as a cop. To feel clean again, to find "absolution", Danny decides to cooperate with the Commission.

The threads of that 'clean feeling' — comradery, compassion, and justice — run a tangled weave in the precincts. At one point Danny has to knock down one junkie to get the heroin for another. Acts of mercy become at the same time acts of viciousness.

Community and comradery are the bedrock of Danny's life: "I will not go against my partners, I will never cross that line ... My partners will never give me up." Ties of love

and blood, friendship and shared work prove much more reliable than the formal, legal ties that connect Ciello with the feds. Towards the end of his relation with the Commission, Danny concludes "I don't know what the truth is anymore ... There's only one thing I know, all these guys [on the Commission] are not my friends." But in Danny's struggle to do what he thinks is right he cuts himself off from his friends, the only truth he is certain of. In the twisted life of the city, compassion and responsibility are at odds, friendship and justice conflict.

Justice is the most elusive quality of all. The justice of the feds reveals itself as cold and manipulative careerism, unconcerned with the real impact it has on the humans beneath it. As long as Danny is useful to them, the feds are ready to use him, but they are also ready to turn on him in an instant.

Danny is saved or helped by mafiosi several times in the film, while the feds come close to sacrificing him, out of clumsiness or political necessity. Ultimately the 'justice' of the Commission destroys the lives of many individuals, while leaving the machinery of injustice and corruption intact. By the end of the film, Danny, now bound to the Commission, is jubilant because his partner tells the Commission to fuck off.

Prince of the City leaves us with no clear choices. In a world where "everyone is guilty", Danny becomes a hero of sorts just by trying to preserve justice, compassion, comradery. Through endless inversions — the corrupt become the virtuous, mercy becomes cruelty, loyalty becomes betrayal — there is an integrity in Danny's effort. Here, perhaps, is the greatest inversion of the film: the man who is a cop, a corrupt cop, and an informant, we feel is a real human being. His humanity surfaces in his struggle for clarity in a world whose moral gravity has failed.

If the films noirs reduce the struggle for justice to an individual, moral struggle, it is because they reflect a society in which conscience is no longer operating at the social and political level. (Morality is, in many ways, politics deformed by implosion from the social to the individual realm.) Film noir like

Prince ... are among the better expressions of conscience in an age where "everyone is guilty".

A generation which a decade ago stood outside and opposed to state, business, family, and property, now finds itself accomplices, as administrators, in business, married, owning homes. The deep cynicism towards self and society which grew during this ten year transformation, is still mixed with attempts at private integrity. The film noir expresses the painful dilemma of 'just' people who are increasingly involved in, and even managing, an unjust world. Yet even as the revival of these films hits the screen, the period which they reflect is drawing to a close.

The search for justice becomes an individual pursuit when the collective creation of justice seems impossible. The political polarization which the 80s is bringing will re-establish the shared political and 'moral' certainty of class conflict, and thus the possibility of the social pursuit of justice. The need in film during this period will be for a new 'socialist realism', a new partisan film-making that justifies and articulates the communist transformation of society. Let's hope that such a new film can incorporate the ruthless honesty, the human passions, and the individual conscience, that has given the films noirs their power.

Rudy Perkins



Solidarity Actions

The declaration of a "State of War" by Poland's new military rulers quickly evoked a wave of protests around the world the likes of which have not been seen since the U.S.'s infamous Christmas bombing of North Viet Nam in 1973. Here we present reports of Solidarity actions in three North American cities shortly after the December 13th events. We would like to continue to give coverage of such activities and invite you, our readers, to send reports to us.

Direct Action

by Lazarus Jones

MONTRÉAL -- In the weeks following General Jaruzelski's cowardly midnight coup the Polish and Russian consulates in Montreal were the scenes of almost daily demonstrations. These mostly polite parades varied in size and intensity, reaching a sort of climax when two enraged Poles kicked in the door of the Polish consulate, but they really had little effect on the day-to-day activities of the apparatchiks locked within the silent and darkened fortresses. Many people felt a need to escalate the protest and when the Quebec-Poland Solidarity Committee, which includes many Anarchists in its membership, proposed direct action the response was immediate and enthusiastic.

The chosen target was the offices of the Soviet airline Aeroflot in downtown Montreal. On the morning of Tuesday, December 29, an advance party of five individuals staked out the lobby of the building where the Aeroflot offices were located while a larger group of approximately 40 people gathered at a nearby city square. As the larger party approached the outer doors the people in the lobby moved to prevent the closing of the doors to the Aeroflot office. Within moments, 30 people had occupied the office and were soon taping up large signs in the display windows announcing the occupation and also setting up a tape-deck that belted out Polish and other revolutionary songs. On the outside other people spray-painted slogans like "support Solidarnosc" on the windows and walls and also distributed a prepared statement to downtown passers-by.

The Aeroflot staff had disappeared at the first hint of trouble and we had the offices to ourselves for a few minutes before the forces of law-and-order made their first appearance on the scene. Two harried looking constables went through the ritual formalities of asking us to leave immediately and were hooted down. Meanwhile the wheels of the police bureaucracy were beginning to grind and the streets outside the office were soon jammed with police cruisers, 14 of them at a rough count, and a newspaper photographer reported that he had seen 18 more parked one street over from the Aeroflot office. He also darkly confided that the cops were in a mood for "busting heads" after two weeks of increasingly militant demonstrations.

We later learned that the Soviet consulate had indignantly demanded that their socialist property be returned immediately to their control and had asked the police to have the riot squad standing by. After we had been occupying the offices for almost an hour two Soviet officials arrived to sign the riot act disappearing into an office that, suitably, had a portrait of Brezhnev's beaming mug on the wall.

It had been decided at a previous committee strategy meeting that a violent confrontation would be avoided if possible and as the police officer in charge prepared to read the riot act we declared the action over and departed.

Cactions: s Blast Regime

The action was widely and even empathetically reported in the Montreal media, the one exception being particularly vicious hatchet-job by local CBC-TV affiliate. We were introduced as a group "calling itself the Quebec-Poland Solidarity Committee" and described as "people who will protest anything." The only accurate note was their description of our leaflet which they rightly said "advocated a world where the workers control everything — without bosses."

Below we re-print some extracts from the leaflet distributed in French and English at the Aeroflot action.

"Today, we have decided to occupy the Aeroflot office in Montreal in solidarity with the men and women of Solidarity. We wish to make it clear to the Soviet Union, and to everyone else, that it is not possible to impede the free development of working class self-management in Poland and expect that business elsewhere will proceed as usual. The world situation, which the forces of law and order have for some time now shaped into a homogenous mass, calls out for action, beckons to express, without violence but with conviction, our refusal to stand as the authorities, for whatever reason of State, continue to tread upon people, in Poland or elsewhere. The earth has had enough, and so have we."

"... At bottom they're all the same; the same logic underlying their game of hide-and-seek. After all, a State is still a State, be it called Poland, El Salvador, the USA or the USSR. They differ only as to their status: junior or senior partners in a world enterprise of heinous proportions seeking to control our hopes and package our dreams.

"... If, however, the Polish workers, men and women, have taught us anything in their long and difficult struggle against a brutal power, it is that we can resist and oppose those who would have us march to the tune of their profits and privileges. The time has come simply to say no, no to the State, no to martial law in Poland, no to Soviet imperialism. (We must) demand what the members of Solidarity seek for themselves: liberty, not formal but real liberty; not the freedom to buy what capital or the State offers them, but the freedom to decide on their own when to work, what to produce, where to live, whom to love. They do not want to exchange the status quo for that of commodity. They simply want to be human, to

create and make of the world as they choose: self-management without bosses. We could hardly demand less for ourselves. It only remains to dethrone the masters everywhere: in Katowice and Gdansk, in Thetford Mines and Ste. Therese, at the offices of Aeroflot and Via Rail, in the Vatican and at The Bay. Comrades, we'll be back!"



San Francisco

by E. Kelly and A. Powell

On Sunday, December 13th, martial law was declared in Poland.

Here in San Francisco, our usual Tuesday night discussion group was transformed into a special session on the crisis. Over 20 people, all over concerned, assembled at the local anarchists bookstore, **Bound Together**, in the Haight, to discuss the situation. We brainstormed for possible actions in the coming days, including intensive leafleting and picketing different places such as the Bank of America, an important creditor to the Polish government (180 million dollars). During the meeting, two leaflets were presented and typeset late that night. One was a factual description of the events and the other, a short, concise comment on the situation. We decided to meet at a demonstration organized by the local AFL-CIO at the U.N. Plaza the following day.

At this U.N. Plaza demonstration, about a dozen anarchists were present; it appeared as if few other Leftists were there. (Libertarian Party members had a literature table; however, they were not seen at subsequent events. Several of these "Liberarians" kept insisting to us that we had the same ideas as them, which we kept denying.) KPFA (listeners-sponsored radio in Berkeley) covered the event, as did

the San Francisco Chronicle, and even a few individuals from "our group" were interviewed. Even the slogan "NO FASCISM — LEFT or RIGHT" went on the air.

The following day, we again met at the bookstore. There were close to 20 people present and still a great deal of interest. We decided it would be advantageous to attend a meeting sponsored by the Public Service Employees Union on Friday.

It was raining heavily the night of the meeting and we didn't think many people would show up, but the union hall was filled. There were young and old, men and women, PATCO members, some of the striking Theatre and Amusement Janitors (local 9), a few Marxists and Anarchists — even two old-timers from the Spanish Civil War! We had a table there with books and leaflets related to Poland and to anarchism. Some books were sold, as well as a substantial number of Strike!'s.

There were speakers at the podium, including a Polish woman active in trade union politics, a representative of the striking theatre janitors also involved in gay issues, a member of SOLIDARITY who "spoke for himself" and preached moderation with unity, and a feminist woman who spoke on the pivotal role of women in the SOLIDARITY movement. The general perspective was one of socialism with an emphasis on freedom. Almost all speakers mentioned that what is happening in Poland could happen here, and that we share similar aspirations and are involved in similar struggles as the Polish workers. Denunciations of both Russia and the U.S. exploitation of the crisis was clearly evident.

Other leftists were present such as one Trotskyist who spoke at the very end of the meeting when most people were gone anyway. The last quarter of the meeting was devoted to a strategy session in which, by democratic vote, we decided that of all the possible courses of action, it would be best to hold an evening rally at Union Square, due to its high visibility and the tremendous amount of people in the area (holiday shoppers and people getting out from their jobs).

The Union Square rally was held Tuesday, December 22nd and got underway around 5 p.m. There was an impressive gathering for this after-dark, candlelight protest. The long picket line was orderly and peaceful

See Protests p. 7



Vancouver: The banner of workers' self-management is raised abroad the Perma.

Have You Heard The One About The Polish Workers?

The text below was distributed by the Vancouver Anarchists For Solidarity in English and Polish at various demonstrations and actions in Vancouver as well as on board the Polish fishing vessels docked in the Vancouver harbour where it was enthusiastically received.

The irony of the events unfolding in Poland today must bring a smile to the faces of those bankers, politicians, bureaucrats and bosses who fear the solidarity of working people everywhere.

The cruel punchline is that this genuine movement for self-management through direct action is once again being crushed by the police and armed forces of a so-called workers' communist government.

• **No Government Anywhere** will truly help Solidarity now. No government, East or West, can afford to stand by and watch a movement like Solidarity take more and more control of everyday life in defiance of authority. Only the practical solidarity of working men and women expressed through strikes, boycotts, occupations, demonstrations, withholding rents, civil disobedience and sabotage, have been effective in winning real freedom. A lasting freedom will only be ensured when working people outside Poland stand with Solidarity and share its courageous example.

• **Beware False Friends** of Poland who are rallying behind the cause of Solidarity while squashing similar organizing efforts in their own backyards. When workers at B.C. telephone took direct action and occupied their workplaces the press condemned them and the courts punished them. When American air traffic controllers tried to form a union they were fired by Reagan. When the labour movement of Quebec raised its head it was met with illegal government action and armed occupation. These are just a few instances in a bloody history of repression against worker's organizing efforts in North America.



• **Blood Money:** \$27 billion in outstanding international loans speak louder than human rights in Poland. The Soviet Union is not the only party concerned with "stability" there. Western banks and governments also prefer "stability" to workers' self-management. The kind of stability that ensures the smooth flow of the international economic order. The pressure provided by financiers the world over has helped create the climate ripe for martial law.

• **Solidarity** is no sell-out trade union. Martial law was declared because Solidarity would not give up its popular momentum in exchange for a seat on any board of directors. The Polish people built their own movement, not only to gain basic human rights but also to reclaim the fruits of their own labour by reorganizing economic life.

• **The Courage and Dignity** of the Solidarity movement in Poland shows that it is possible to build an alternative to authoritarian communism that is not capitalist. An alternative that defies the old Cold War divisions between East and West and provides hope for the future. An alternative which envisions a society free from the domination of bosses or commissars, without political parties or corporations, a society scaled to the needs and desires of ordinary people.

They Want Freedom

VANCOUVER — Of all the centres of protest actions none received as much publicity as this city. In fact, the presence of four Polish fishing vessels in Vancouver's harbour provided for a media circus as well as a site of protests.

The actual protests included an almost 1000 strong march and rally on December 19th led by Solidarity members from the ships.

Other acts of resistance followed including the defection of 98 sailors. The final event was a "Moral Strike" by most of the crew of one ship, the Regulus, on January 12th. At stake were a pay dispute and demands to make phone calls to family members in Poland. During the five hour action "Solidarity on Strike" pickets and banners were respected by other unionized workers in the harbour. An official from the Polish consulate soon acceded to the sailors' demands ending the last known strike on Polish territory. The Regulus set sail the next day.

(Micro)

BREAD & ROSES

Women, Unions and Work

The Hamilton Working Women (HWW) group has been active in sponsoring a number of forums, rallies and educational events on the nature of women's oppression. In December they invited Madeline Parent, a representative of the Confederation of Canadian Unions, to speak on women, unions and work. Her commentary provided a real insight into the movement's attempts to attain equal rewards for equal behavior and pointed up the limits of this strategy.

Parent argued that women occupy an inferior social station because they play second fiddle economically. Women are about 40 percent of the labour force today. Before this women were often tied to the home but urban pressures make wage-labour a necessity. However school and media institutions don't take this reality into account and distort women's development by encouraging them to prepare for marriage and house work rather than aiding them in learning how to make a decent living.

The answer to these problems, according to Parent, are organization and collective bargaining with women being active in unions for their issues. Parent believes women should also be conversant with and take stands on legislative issues. For example she is committed to equal pay for work of equal value both as a contract clause and law.

Women at work should be valued for their skills, training on the job, effort, responsibility and the physical conditions of the labour. This is UN and International Labour Organization policy. But governments like that in Ontario don't support it because they find it easier to underpay women unless they organize.

However even if this demand was granted it would still be possible to discriminate against women since equal rights can still foster inequality among unequal participants. In order to take into account different labour capacity such wants as paid parental leave are important too. It provides job security. Since 1969 teachers, hospital workers and women government service workers in Quebec have received 20 weeks of paid leave for child bearing. And in Quebec you can get 2 years leave as well from a child's birth and keep your job seniority. Women have even won 10 weeks adoption leave in Quebec for public workers, teachers and hospital employees.

Women can also achieve protection from sexual and other harassment on the job by agitating for a general anti-harassment 'human rights' policy. This would cover women and encourage other workers' support for an anti-discrimination clause in labour contracts. It is more effective by far than complaints to the company.

Redress in the area of pensions is wanted also to ensure that rewards are directly proportional to the labour capacities of society's members. Pensions could therefore take account of maternity leave when calculating service time and not discriminate against women for bearing children. As well private pensions which exclude groups such as women could be prohibited where they exist.

Also in need of modification is the area of safety and health in offices. This has been all but ignored because women are concentrated in this type of employment. Yet there are real hazards in these work places such as video display terminals. And in textiles or clothing industries there are many accidents like pressers' burns or seamstresses getting needle punctures. Safety committees could identify and cut down these hazards and argue for safer procedures.

On the question of seniority Madeline Parent called for it to be based on the entire bargaining unit and not on each department wherein it is possible to place different groups of workers in different departments and deprive such groups as women from the same opportunities as the rest of the plant. Such a seniority clause, as Parent suggests, can be linked with retraining rights guarantees which make the first clause practical and give all employees more diverse skills.

These activities can improve women's status in the work force thereby ameliorating labour market segregation by sex and hence opening up new areas of employment for women which would be helpful for those who can't afford or don't care to be confined to domestic work. Moreover such improvement in women's economic position will find social expression generally too. The link is a union. In closing Parent stressed the need for consistency and a recognition that this isn't a one day activity but a strategic long term process.

Calendar

Upcoming Events

New York

Liberarian Book Club Forums. February 24 at 7:30 pm "Situationism" with speakers formerly with the Situationist International. March 24 at 7:30 pm "The International Ecology Movement" with Murray Bookchin author of *Toward an Ecological Society*. For location, see above.

"The Current Situation in Poland", Washington Square Church, 135 W. 4th St. at 7:30 pm. Sponsored by the Libertarian Workers' Group and the International Communist Current. Speakers to be announced.

Boston

Rally to be held on February 6 at 12:00 pm. in Copley Plaza, Boston. Participants will then march to State House. The themes of the action will be: "For Workers' Control in Poland and the U.S." and "Against Intervention — USSR Out of Poland and U.S. Out of El Salvador". Sponsored by Black Rose, Socialist Labour Party (Boston), Socialist Party (Boston), Industrial Workers of the World (Boston), Hard Rain and others.

Confronting "Beauty"

by Brian Burch

Prince Albert, Saskatchewan has been known for political quiet. But this myth seems to be fading away. This is thanks to the efforts of a newly-formed body **The Concerned Citizens for Sexual Equality**.

On November 13 after a day's preparation six individuals gathered outside the Carlton Collegiate to protest the regional Miss Teen Canada Pageant. While their leaflet was distributed to a rather unsympathetic crowd the action did get sympathetic coverage in the Prince Albert Daily Herald.

Although the media support struck one as surprising the content of the leaflet was more familiar: "The Miss Teen Canada Pageant treats women as objects, not as people. Such public displays give intellectual and social legitimacy to the treatment of women as objects in other settings, thus reinforcing such problems as street hassles, battered women, sexual harassment and rape. The displaying and posturing of women's bodies in such contests differs only in degree from the exploitation of women which is commonly labeled pornography. To these concerns must be added the lie that beauty contests represent ... that women are to develop a sense of worth on the basis of appearance and not on their personhood."

"These contests are designed to benefit big business interests which profit from and gain cheap publicity through the exploitation of young women. By providing gifts and living expenses, corporations lure individuals into participating in such displays. If businesses were truly concerned with providing opportunities for women, they would be practicing affirmative action hiring and promotion policies; not renting women's bodies.

"Miss Teen Canada Pageants are nothing new. They recreate the submissive role of women in our society. Instead of women working together for mutual benefit, our society expects women to compete for men's attention, using a transitory part of their being as bait. This is exploitative of women and an insult to the intelligence of men. Yet such meatmarkets continue."

"We recommend, if beauty is to be celebrated, that art festivals be held. Let objects be treasured for their beauty, not women treated as objects."

Given how quiet the grass-roots

Teach-In

To be held in mid-February at a location to be announced. The themes will be similar to those of the February 6 rally and march. For more information please contact: Hard Rain, P.O. Box 363, Somerville, Mass. 02143

Montreal

The Intellectuals and the State with Noam Chomsky and other speakers to be announced. June 5, 1982, time and location to be announced. Sponsored by the Anarchos Institute. For more information contact: **Anarchos Institute**, 3981 St. Laurent, 4th floor, Montreal, Canada, H2W 1Y5.

Solidarity: The Unfinished Insurrection (in French) January 25 at 7:30 PM. Cafe Borduas, 1257 rue Amherst, Metro Beaudry

The Right to Work: The Ambiguous Demand, February 15, 7:30 PM. **Happy Birthday Kronstadt!**, March 1, 7:30. **Gays and Order: Subversion or Reproduction?**, March 15, 7:30. **Self-Management**, March 29, 7:30 PM. **The ABC's of Anarchism**, May 10, 7:30. For location, see above.



level of the feminist movement has become in outlying centres this small demonstration in Prince Albert stands out as a positive change. Confronting sexism in its blatant and public forms by tying it to related corporate exploitation serves as a reminder that the patriarchal lies remain around us, condemning our silence.

All year round beauty pageants are held, whether to choose "Winter Carnival Queens" or a "Miss Universe", with general social acceptance. Even among anarchists! There is little opposition to the arbitrary judgement of women of the basis of looks and support for traditional values. There's also a lot of wasted words bemoaning less blatant, more popular forms of exploitation such as the lack of opportunities for women. The fact that as long as women are being urged to compete on the basis of physical attractiveness to males they won't have equal opportunity seems to be ignored.

nored.

Hard core pornography is a growing commodity while rapes are increasing. 'Kiddie Porn' is now acceptable to middle class tastes as cutbacks hit daycare and education. Beauty pageants dot North America yet it seems that only in Prince Albert can people still be mobilized against them.

Libertarian leftists must not just voice our opposition to sexism. We must confront it in our own lives as well as wherever it exists.

In February the **Concerned Citizens for Sexual Equality** will picket the contest for the winter carnival "queen". Let us hope this will not be an isolated action but one complementing others elsewhere in North America.

No competition among women for the profit of men! Silence in this battle means supporting the enemy.

Unclassifieds

NORTH AMERICAN ANARCHIST NETWORK: To participate, make 50 copies of your submission and mail it to the N.A.A.N., P.O. Box 18488, Denver CO. 80218. \$3.00 donation encouraged. N.A.A.N. collates all submissions and mails them back out to everyone. We exercise no editorial control. Deadline for issue #6 is February 1st, 1982.

May Day Disaster Fund Draw: 1st Prize: 2 matching Lopi wool jumpers hand-knitted in Orcadian "Magnus" pattern. 2nd and 3rd Prizes: Orcadian Food Hamper including a bottle of Highland Park malt whiskey. Other Prizes: Orcadian knitwear, Orcadian malt whiskey, book tokens and lots of unusual prizes.

The draw will be held at the May Day Party to be held at the Autonomy Club in London, England, on Saturday, May 1st, 1982. Prize winners will be notified by First Class Mail if not present.

The money raised will be used to alleviate the enormous debts owed by Cienfuegos Press thereby insuring its continued survival if enough is raised. Tickets are available from **STRIKE!** for 50 cents each or from Cienfuegos Press, Over the Water, Sanday, Orkney, KW17 2B1, Scotland for 25p

each.

We at **STRIKE!** encourage your generous support.

S.R.A.F. Bulletin: The discussion bulletin of the Social Revolutionary Anarchist Federation has been revived. It is now published by Frontline, P.O. Box 21071, Washington, D.C. 20009. Subs. are \$6.00 for 6 issues to individuals (by voluntary donation) or \$12.00 to institutions with funded acquisition programmes.

ANARCHO-SYNDICALISM Black Rose Books of Montreal is interested in publishing a new edition of Rudolph Rocker's book **Anarcho-Syndicalism** (the complete text, not the abridged version published by Freedom Press) and would like to locate a copy. If you have one or know where we could obtain one please write to: **Black Rose Books**, 3981 Blvd. St. Laurent, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H2W 1Y5.

STRIKE! buttons (Black on Red) are available from the **STRIKE! Collective**, P.O. Box 284, Main Station, St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 6T7 for \$1.00 each. Quantities can be ordered on consignment. The funds from sales aid **Strike!**'s survival as a monthly newspaper.

ON THE WAR FRONT

Well, it appears as if Commander Reagan has, for the time being, pulled himself from between the rock and the hard place he was stuck in a few months ago. Normally, this should be a big boost for him and his General Staff, just recently shaken up when one of its members got caught with his hand in the cookie jar and had to be replaced by a nitwit who a year ago couldn't answer a Congressman's question as to who the leaders of Zimbabwe and South Africa were. But no, there is no rejoicing in D.C., at least not yet.

You see, they thought they had Commander Brezhnev and his crew on the ropes up to a few weeks ago. First they outflanked him with that zero-weapons gambit for the European Theatre of War. Then the troops in Poland got unruly and they had to dispatch Sgt. Jaruzelski to put a few of them in the brig for a while, which left Brezhnev looking pretty bad. Then when the clerks in the Pentagon dusted off the file on the old economic sanctions ploy, it looked like all the anti-nuclear demonstrators and the rest of those ingrates who don't appreciate American generosity would have to pack it in for a while.

But all of a sudden all the NATO lieutenants like Schmidt and Mitterand and Papandreou decide not to go in for the kill. After all, they need the business, especially that natural gas pipeline, since the Ayatollah and the rest of the bad boys from OPEC can still turn out the lights on the Kurfustendamm whenever they feel like it. Besides, a lot of them aren't too unhappy about those Poles getting a little taste of the whip; after all, this worker revolt business might just spill over the borders, and maybe even over to the other side of the Berlin Wall. That disarmament stuff is bad enough, without a bunch of workers who start getting ideas about running production themselves.

So the Commander called Schmidt in and gave him a good talking to and got a few vague promises. Perhaps they would both do better to have a few words with some of their employers at the Western banks. It seems that they have been none too discrete in their articles in the business press of late, and have actually said up front that Jaruzelski should be praised for cleaning up the whole mess, which was making it hard to collect those loans. Besides, say the bankers, a little hard work never hurt anyone. Just look at us.

So not only is the war in Europe not going so well, but a little to the south and east of there this renegade general named Begin decides to disobey orders and almost blow the whole game. So Big Ron has to slap his wrist in public, which gets Begin teed off and he starts yelling about how he's not going to be anyone's vassal. Vassal, shmassal, says Ron, just relax and have a glass of tea, Menachem. There's enough loot to go around for everyone. If Assad and the boys in Syria get too upset, we'll just let them have northern Lebanon.

Closer to home, in the Caribbean combat zone, it almost looked as if the Commander was going to get to try another Bay of Pigs; this time in Nicaragua, and hopefully a little more successful than the last one. But the American papers had to go and spill the beans about all those warships and the exiles training in Florida and the whole bit, and now the Sandinistas are getting sympathetic write-ups in the New York Times. The situation in El Salvador and Guatemala isn't getting any better, so perhaps it's time for the U.S. to cut a few deals before it's too late — maybe an election or two, free some political prisoners, call a truce — you remember the whole game from the sixties.

And let's not forget that that's just what it is folks, a game except we're the playing pieces, the dice are Cruise missiles and SS-20's and the world is the playing board. It's up to all of us to put an end to the game before the players start fighting for real and wreck the board.

Protests

continued from p. 5

but passionate in tone, and quite a few passersby joined in. There was some singing ("Solidarity Forever!") and chanting (such as "Army OUT, Workers IN, SOLIDARITY must WIN!") and the mood was very positive throughout. Later, to the amusement of the crowd, the anarchists chanted, "All law is martial law — we ALL live in Poland!" Other leftists like the Revolutionary Workers Party kept a low profile, selling papers but blending in with the crowd. About 400 people were present at the rally. It is unknown what the media coverage was, but a T.V. camera was spotted at one point.

There were some brief speeches to wrap up the rally, including one by Daniel Ellsberg who also brought up the Nicaraguan situation. Another meeting was announced to be held at U.C., Berkeley on Jan. 5th as well as other meetings/demos. The crowd was very enthusiastic about future action. There seemed to be a hopeful attitude that we were clearly going to make an

impact, in terms of Poland but especially in our own futures in this country.

Quite a few of us, who have come together recently in this group, feel that the Polish situation crystallizes many of the frustrations with the inadequacies of both superpowers and that many of those involved in the SOLIDARITY movement have been a great inspiration to us. We are also frustrated with how isolated we anarchists have been, especially

from the average working person.

We find that many people, intuitively, want an alternative to State Socialism (as in Russia ... and in Poland) and Capitalism (as here). While they are inspired by this crisis to begin thinking of radical alternatives to the usual power structures, anarchists should be there and visible. People don't have to flounder about blindly looking for an alternative because anarchism is that alternative.



(John Christopher)



Libertarian Notes

Shootout at the M-L Corral?

When news of Albanian prime minister Mehmet Shehu's "suicide" broke in the West it soon became apparent that there was much more to the story. The terse announcement on Radio Albania was hardly in keeping with Shehu's stature as number two man in a system where the "cult of personality" demands the most fawning eulogising of departing leaders — for a few weeks at least. But, the story quickly became truly bizarre when it was revealed that Shehu might have been killed in a gun battle with first secretary Enver Hoxha himself during a central committee meeting on December 17.

Albania, a dirt-poor southern European nation that many Marxist-Leninist sects believe is the only remaining example of "true socialism," has experienced growing economic problems as a result of its policy of almost total isolation from the outside world. Shehu, it is thought, favoured closer ties with the west and this may have led to the climactic shootout.

The incident is certainly not out of character of this tiny nation where tribal antagonisms and blood feuds are still commonplace. During the Sixties one female member of the central committee dispatched a rival with a hammer blow to the head during a central committee meeting. With Hoxha, 73, already well into his dotage and also possibly wounded in the shootout, the struggle for the succession should heat up in the coming months. As Mao said: "All political power comes out of the barrel of a gun," so praise Stalin and pass the ammunition!

Nicaraguan Solidarity

The aspiring state socialists of Nicaragua recently showed that they are no laggards at picking up the tricks of the trade. When the military cracked down in Poland **Barricada** and **El Nuevo Diario**, two Sandinista mouthpieces, hailed martial law as "the salvation" of the country and ran articles depicting Lech Walesa as a no-account worker who was always getting fired from jobs until he finally obtained full-time employment with the Central Intelligence Agency. The government was somewhat embarrassed when **La Prensa**, a right-wing daily, published a leaked Sandinista memo instructing **Barricada** and other official publications to print only facts confirmed by Soviet or Cuban press agencies and not those transmitted "by international news agencies controlled by imperialism" and that emphasis should be placed on "positive aspects like the re-establishment of stability, tranquility and order." Way to go, "comrades."

It's a Real Gas!

Much has been made of the reports that the USSR has supplied Vietnam with bio-chemical weapons, the so-called "yellow rain" toxin, but little mention has been made of the source of the allegations. The specimen on which the U.S. State Department bases its claims was, in fact, brought back from Southeast Asia by a writer for **Soldier of Fortune** magazine, a publication that specializes in glorifying the deeds of mercenaries and the security forces of such nations as South Africa and the formerly white-ruled Rhodesia.

Scientists who examined the specimens noted that "the toxin on the leaves was almost uncontaminated by dirt or water, which suggests it had been applied directly rather than sprayed." As biochemist Matthew Meselson of Harvard University declared, "the smoking gun has not been presented, toxic chemicals may or may not have been used, but on equivocal evidence, U.S. officials are treating this as thought this were a direct attack and they had to react in kind."

The propaganda offensive launched by the U.S. government around the "yellow rain" affair is obviously motivated by its own desire to restock its chemical arsenal. The allegations of Soviet use of such weapons is regarded as the surest way of making such a move more palatable to Congress and the public.

Cult of the Non-Personality

A mythical minister was voted one of West Germany's most popular politicians in an opinion poll published recently. The respected Emnid Institute placed "Minister Meyers" on a list of government official submitted to voters for a routine popularity test. The result: the non-existent minister was voted sixth most popular, ahead of such political heavyweights as Defence Minister Hans Apel and Interior Minister Gerhart Baum.

An Emnid Institute spokesperson commented that "contrary to the assumptions of politicians and opinion pollsters, large sections of the population have a high degree of ignorance about politics." A more accurate assessment might be that large sections of the population couldn't give a good goddamn about politicians or pollsters.

Coup Klutzes Still Active

One year after the abortive February 23 coup in Spain the government is still dithering and refusing to take firm action against the organizers of the coup or *golpistas* as they are known in Spain. On December 6 one hundred junior officers, in a move that disappointed those who had hoped that the rising young officers would be less fascistic than their elders, issued a manifesto that attacked the press, expressed support for the *golpistas* and demand the end of 'political interference' in the armed forces.

The feeble administration of prime minister Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, afraid to provoke another coup attempt, has granted concession after concession to the *golpistas* and allowed officers whose actions on February 23 were highly suspect to continue on in their careers. Tension is building as the trial of the 32 *golpistas* approaches and the situation can be expected to degenerate as the plotters attempt to turn it into a trial of the king and the "democratic" regime.

The contempt with which the military views the government can be judged from the fact that General Milans del Bosch, on the leading conspirators, was recently awarded the "Medal for Suffering for the Fatherland" — in recognition of the time in September 1980 that he twisted his ankle getting out of a helicopter. In such an atmosphere the prospect of another coup is an ominous possibility.



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Memories of the way we were: Iranians prepare to lynch Jimmy Carter in effigy.

Iran Turns to the U.S.

by: Brian Amesley

Not long ago there wasn't a government in the world more overtly hostile to the U.S. than that of Ayatollah Khomeini. His Islamic Republic had been born in direct confrontation with U.S. Imperialism. The dynamic for this was a huge popular revolt involving workers, peasants, clerics and students which overthrew the hated Shah's police state in 1979.

The deposed Shah's regime lasted 25 years with direct help from the U.S. especially through both the CIA and Pentagon. Two key bodies of the Iranian state exemplified this.

One was the Shah's infamous secret police force, the SAVAK. The CIA worked closely with it in ruthlessly crushing all opposition. The other was the Shah's U.S.-equipped military machine which became one of the biggest in the world.

The Shah's U.S. connection had a price. In exchange for this U.S. "aid" Iran functioned as an American gendarme in the Middle East. Iran was also expected to be tolerant of Israel. Objectively this meant Iran would serve as a counter to Soviet influence in the region.

Consequently, when the Shah was overthrown the U.S. faced a potentially enormous strategic setback. Suddenly Iran was ruled by a state intent on driving the U.S. out of the Middle East and which embraced the PLO's fight against Israel.

The perceived threat appeared greater with the surfacing of strong Iranian leftist organizations like the Mujahedin and the People's Fedayeen. After all, these "Islamic Marxists" saw Khomeini's regime as stage one of a two stage revolutionary process culminating in the seizure of power by the Left.

The Soviet move into Afghanistan opened the way for improved U.S.-Iranian relations however. Specifically, Iran soon began giving material aid to the Afghan guerrillas putting themselves on the same side as the U.S. The Carter Administration seized on this fact by repeatedly telling Iran that the USSR posed the greatest threat to it.

Later on when the American hostages were seized U.S.-Iranian relations peaked in hostility. For the Mullahs ruling Iran this was oppor-

tune indeed. What with the economy steadily deteriorating and the tyrannical character of the regime alienating many, the Mullahs gained an ideal target in diverting discontent away from themselves to U.S. threats of retaliation over the hostage taking.

More than ever the Mullahs made mileage of their image as being Third World and anti-imperialist. Hatred of the U.S. for its support of the Shah re-solidified their popular base.

The subsequent Iraqi invasion of Iran made possessing the hostages increasingly burdensome. So they were released thereby ending the main obstacle to better U.S.-Iranian relations. Meanwhile the war with Iraq went on and on while internally Iran faced problems like massive unemployment and stubborn Kurdish resistance.

In addition there was a power struggle occurring within the regime itself. The fanatical Islamic Republican Party (IRP) purged "moderates" like Bani-Sadr from leading

Iranian leaders were successfully assassinated but others filled the vacuum and the regime's response was to systematically execute all persons considered suspect.

U.S. Favours Khomeini

Significantly, the U.S. preferred to see the regime win out. This would insure continued suppression of the Left and prolong the rule of an anti-Soviet government directly aiding the Afghan guerrillas. Furthermore, with the decimation of the Left there is a better chance of a successful pro-American military coup.

Even so, Iran is already on its way back into the U.S. sphere of influence. In December an Iranian military delegation flew to Washington trying to get the U.S. to fulfill military contracts for spare parts signed when the Shah ruled Iran. These are needed to sustain the war against Iraq.

Therefore, in foreign policy and in dealing with the Iranian Left Iran is coming full circle. Both its anti-imperialist and its revolutionary charades are being all but aban-



Afghan Guerrillas: Drawing the U.S. and Iran closer together.

posts. In his case in order to escape death Bani-Sadr fled to Paris where he teamed up with the Mujahedin leader Rajavi.

There they declared themselves heads of a provisional government in exile. Recognizing how the purges had narrowed the Islamic regime's base of popular support they then began directing unsuccessful urban guerrilla war within Iran thinking it could topple Khomeini's rule. Many

done. This then leaves Iran's oppressed with the choice of either enduring more of the reactionary Islamic regime, regardless of whether it's ruled by Khomeini, Bani-Sadr or someone else, or smashing it as the necessary first step in a real Iranian Revolution. One in which neither Shahs nor Mullahs nor generals will have a place.

ican military personnel, while pre-coup moves were disguised through joint exercises of NATO forces that commenced in Thrace the day before. Perhaps the NATO partners could follow up their outrages on Poland with plans for sanctions on themselves.

Labour Pains

Concessions Critic Barred Entry

It seems the conflict within the UAW over concessions to General Motors is taking an increasingly ugly turn. On January 29 UAW Local 199's Chairperson for GM in St. Catharines, Ontario, John Clout, was grabbed by U.S. Customs Officials at Toronto International Airport. Denied entry, he was given no explanation even though he had attended two other UAW GM Council meetings in the U.S. during the previous three weeks.

Significantly, the local St. Catharines newspaper was anonymously tipped off by phone in suspiciously quick time. Clout charged there had been a set-up. While unsure as to who is responsible he cited GM, the International Union and local political enemies as possible culprits.

One thing is certain, John Clout has earned himself many enemies including UAW President Doug Fraser by being a consistent foe of any concessions to the auto giants. Some time ago his vocal opposition to the Chrysler deal led to the right-wing executive of Local 199 formally informing Fraser who replied with a letter condemning Clout's stand. Given this, if and when the truth about this incident emerges it is likely to add fuel to the rising opposition to the UAW bureaucracy's drive for more concessions.

Lady sings the Blues

Pearl Baily is a singer, actress, speaker and diplomat. She has appeared in night clubs, motion pictures, on TV, Broadway and on records. Recently she visited the Chrysler Corp. Jefferson Assembly plant in Detroit.

Management stopped production so the workers could get a chance to see and hear Ms. Baily. Workers came from the production line tired from the speed of the line, looking to hear and see some entertainment that would take their minds off their boring work. But to the workers' surprise there was to be no entertainment. What the workers got was a speech. She praised the workers for their loyalty, support and sacrifices to Chrysler, and told the workers to be thankful they had a job and that they should do more and ask for less.

It seems that Ms. Baily was brought there not to entertain the workers, but to set the stage for more concessions in the 1982 contract negotiations.

Direct Action: It Works Every Time

Fifty union members attending the UAW Family Education Center in Port Elgin, Ontario received a call on December 10 from the Ontario Federation of Labour, saying that the Farmers Survival Committee planned a demonstration for the next day. The Bank of Commerce had seized two farmers' assets.

Two hundred farmers surrounded the bank with their tractors, combines and manure spreaders. The 50 UAW members joined them, singing "Solidarity Forever" and "We shall Not be Moved".

While the farmers' lawyers negotiated, the workers got restless. They all went into the bank and began opening up accounts for small amounts and immediately closing them, much to the manager's consternation.

"We totally tied the bank up for 45 minutes to an hour," UAW member Len Hope told "Labor Notes". "I don't know what it do to the computers."

Before long the bank gave in and said it would give the farmers back their property. One farmer's assets even his pet goat had been seized while he was away from home.

Source: "Labor Notes"

Industrial Hazards at Home

The recent relaxation of federal "labor standards", which will allow garment manufacturers to send home work with workers, will open the door to the return of massive sweatshop conditions. Although anarchists are not in favor of legislative action to advance the cause of workers' self-emancipation we do see, however, that such a Labor Department ruling can only be detrimental to workers in an industry where exploitation and union class collaboration is already the norm. The Labour Department ruling will have disastrous effects in the following ways:

- Substandard, illegally low wages;
- Employment of children;
- Long hours of work with no premium pay for overtime;
- Unsafe, unhealthy working conditions, with risk to both worker and consumer;
- Unfair competition with workers in factories that offer decent wages and working conditions.

While the conditions of home work in the past were terrible, today they would be far worse. Today garments are rarely made of cotton alone. Synthetic materials and solvents are used for basting. As poor as they are, federal rules now govern the use of asbestos, vinyl chloride, perchloroethylene, formaldehyde and other chemicals in the work place. It is shattering to realize that employers will have the option of using unregulated in workers' homes - those hazardous materials.

Industrial home work must be opposed on many grounds. In light of the hazards listed, the hazards which industrial homework will bring give reason to stop the practice before it starts. It is hoped that garment and clothing workers in organized shops will form committees to prevent their bosses from contracting out work to homemakers, prevent their bosses from attempting to force workers to take home work after the working day is over and, naturally, to organize against those bosses who contract out work.

Pat on the Back

A service provided employers on how to deal with their workers advised them, "If you want 10 hours work in eight hour days, you may feel you have to pay for it. "Bunk," this service insists, "money can't buy that." It suggests, instead of cash, some pats on the back and regular diet of promises of a great future.

Such a pat on the back is worthy of a kick in the head.

NATO Aids Repression

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occurs only as a result of the action of a few "over-zealous officers". Amnesty has concluded that, "torture is widespread in Turkey at the present time and is carried out as a routine practice in police stations, and in some military establishments

At least "western" observations about the complicity of Warsaw Pact nations have insights based on NATO's role in the Turkey coup.

Under the terms of the U.S.-Turkish defence pact Turkish military communications use NATO channels, which are monitored by Amer-